AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stamper holder for being mounted in a mold of a mold assembly that molds a substrate for an information recording medium, together with a flat disk-shaped stamper having a molding surface for forming micro asperities in a surface of the substrate for the information recording medium, when the stamper holder is fitted in an insertion hole extending through a central portion of the stamper,

wherein the stamper holder is configured such that an outer periphery of the stamper holder has a gradually increased diameter from an end of a reverse side toward an end of the molding surface to form a sloped surface, such that an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder ~~opposite to an~~ , which is complementary to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole, has a sloped shape ~~complementary to the inner peripheral surface of the stamper~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A mold component for being mounted in a mold of a mold assembly that molds a substrate for an information recording medium, comprising:

a flat disk-shaped stamper having a molding surface for forming micro asperities in a surface of the substrate for the information recording medium and having

an insertion hole extending through a central portion thereof; an inner peripheral surface of the central portion that defines the insertion hole comprising a sloped surface which has a larger diameter on the molding surface side compared with a diameter on an opposite side; and

a stamper holder configured such that an outer periphery of the stamper holder has a gradually increased diameter from an end of a reverse side toward an end of the molding surface to form a sloped surface and to fit in the insertion hole extending through the central portion of the stamper, thereby holding the stamper, an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder, which is complementary ~~opposite~~ to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole, has a sloped shape ~~complementary to the inner peripheral surface of the stamper~~.

3. (Previously Presented) A mold component as claimed in claim 2, wherein the stamper holder is configured such that an end face of the stamper holder on a cavity side is flush with the molding surface.

4. (Currently Amended) A mold assembly that molds a substrate for an information recording medium, comprising:

a mold; and

a mold component configured to be mounted in the mold, the mold component comprising:

a flat disk-shaped stamper having a molding surface for forming micro asperities in a surface of the substrate for the information recording medium and having

an insertion hole extending through a central portion thereof; an inner peripheral surface of the central portion that defines the insertion hole comprising a sloped surface which has a larger diameter on the molding surface side compared with a diameter on an opposite side; and

a stamper holder configured such that an outer periphery of the stamper holder has a gradually increased diameter from an end of a reverse side toward an end of the molding surface to form a sloped surface and to fit in the insertion hole extending through the central portion of the stamper, thereby holding the stamper, and an entire outer peripheral surface of the stamper holder, which is complementary ~~opposite~~ to an inner peripheral surface of the stamper defining the insertion hole, has a sloped shape ~~complementary to the inner peripheral surface of the stamper~~.

5. (Previously Presented) A mold assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the stamper holder is configured such that an end face of the stamper holder on a cavity side is flush with the molding surface.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)